

SESSION OF 2009

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
HOUSE BILL NO. 2162**

As Agreed to April 3, 2009

Brief*

HB 2162 would amend the licensing requirements for marriage and family therapists in Kansas by deleting the requirement of completing a program of study with standards consistent with those of the state universities in Kansas. The bill also would increase the statutory maximum the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board is permitted to charge for the application fee for the licensure of a psychologist from \$150 to \$225 and would reduce the statutory maximum of the original license fee from \$200 to \$150.

The bill would become effective upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Conference Committee Action

The members of the Conference Committee agreed to recede from the Senate Committee of the Whole amendments concerning continuing education requirements for social workers (SB 31) and re-establishment of the Kansas Autism Task Force (SB 83) and to adopt HB 2162 as amended by the House Committee on Health and Human Services.

Background

The bill was introduced at the request of the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board whose representative indicated that the amendment affecting the licensure of marriage and family

*Conference committee report briefs are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. No summary is prepared when the report is an agreement to disagree. Conference committee report briefs may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org/kldr>

therapists would allow applicants who have not had a 500-hour practicum to receive a Kansas license after these applicants have completed additional hours of direct client contact. Currently, the representative indicated, if an applicant has not had a 500-hour practicum while he or she was in graduate school, the applicant is forever barred from a marriage and family therapy license in Kansas. The amendment proposed for fees, she continued, would have no net increase in the total amount paid for an application fee and original license and would only represent a shift in fees. There were no other proponents and no opponents present at the time of the Committee hearing.

The House Committee on Health and Human Services recommended an amendment to the bill to reduce the statutory maximum for the original license for psychologists to an amount not to exceed \$150. The maximum amount established in current law is \$200.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the original version of the bill states that passage of the bill would have a fiscal effect on the operations of the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board. The Board estimates that it would license at least ten more applicants for a license to practice as a marriage and family therapist at \$250 for an application and an original license for a total increase in receipts to its fee fund of \$2,500. In accordance with state law, 20.0 percent of this amount would be deposited in the State General Fund (\$500).

Currently, the Board charges a \$100 application fee and a \$175 original license fee for psychologists for a total cost of \$275. The Board states that the majority of its work occurs during the application phase of licensure and that there is less time involved in issuing the actual license. Also, according to the Board, approximately 60.0 percent of its applicants are out-of-state individuals who do not qualify for a Kansas license. Therefore, the note continues, the Board intends to increase the application fee to \$225 and the original license fee to \$50 to best represent the time invested in the process. This would not penalize qualified applicants because the net cost of an application and license would remain the same. Any fiscal effect resulting from the passage of the bill is not included in *The FY 2010 Governor's Budget Report*.